

RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

RUSSIA COMPLAINS TO THE POWERS.

VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST JAPAN.

INVASION OF KOREA.

COMBATANTS DRAWING CLOSE.

LONDON, Feb. 24. Count Lamontfort, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has sent a circular to the Powers complaining that since the rupture of relations between Japan and Russia, Japan's conduct has been in open violation of the laws of civilised nations. Count Lamontfort specially draws attention to Japanese acts of violence in Korea, and to the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, and to the Japanese violation of international law. Count Lamontfort complains that three days prior to the declaration of war the Japanese made a dastardly attack on Russian warships in the neutral port of Chemulpho, after stopping a telegram warning the commanders of those vessels of the rupture of relations. The Russian Foreign Minister also complains of the capture of merchantmen in neutral ports. Prior to hostilities, he continues, the Japanese illegally usurped the administration of Korea, and directed M. Pavloff, the Russian Minister, to leave Seoul. Russia, Count Lamontfort concludes, protests against such flagrant breaches of international law.

THE INVASION OF KOREA.

FORTY THOUSAND ADDITIONAL JAPANESE.

The Chifu correspondent of the "Morning Post" reports that 40,000 more Japanese have landed at Chemulpho, Korea.

RUSSIAN CAVALRY NEAR ANJU.

LONDON, Feb. 23. At hundred Russian cavalry are at Sungho, south-east of Anju, Korea.

RUSSIAN COMMANDERS.

INDEPENDENT OF ALEXIEFF.

LONDON, Feb. 24. Vice-Admiral Makarov, who has been appointed to the command of the Russian naval forces in the Far East, and General Kuropatkin, who commands the Russian troops in the Far East, are virtually independent of Admiral Alexieff, the Russian Viceroy in the Far East.

CAPACITY OF THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

THREE THOUSAND TROOPS A DAY.

LONDON, Feb. 24. Prince Khilkoff, the Russian Minister for Russia, Canada, and Hawaii, reports that the Siberian railway is able to land 3000 troops daily in the Far East. Each contingent, it is estimated, will be six weeks on the journey.

TRANSPORT OF RUSSIAN TROOPS.

LONDON, Feb. 23. The "Militar Wochenblatt," of Berlin, writing in reference to the transport of Russian troops to the Far East by the Trans-Siberian railway, states that trains travel at an average rate of nine miles per hour.

DESTRUCTION OF RAILWAY BRIDGES.

Now, assuming that Russia had on February 10 123,000 troops in the Far East, it would be March 3 before 158,000 would be carried thither. By March 18, 188,000 could be conveyed to the front, and by April 4 208,000.

AND MILES OF RAILWAY.

The Seoul correspondent of the "Standard" reports that 70 miles of railway line and some important bridges have been destroyed by Japanese agents between Harbin and Vladivostok.

THE MANDUAT AT SHANGHAI.

LONDON, Feb. 24. The Russian Foreign Minister, Prince Cherkassky, has been requested by the Chinese authorities to leave Shanghai within 24 hours. The Japanese Consul, Mr. Ogihara, the Japanese Consul, has warned the Chinese authorities that if they are unable to enforce the neutrality of the port Japan will take steps to render the neutrality effective.

EXPECTED EXPULSION BY CHINESE CRUISE.

In connection with the Russian gun vessel Mandjur remaining in harbour at Shanghai after she has been requested by the Chinese authorities to leave within 24 hours, Mr. Ogihara, the Japanese Consul, has warned the Chinese authorities that if they are unable to enforce the neutrality of the port Japan will take steps to render the neutrality effective.

RUSSIAN WARSHIPS RETURN HOME.

LONDON, Feb. 24. The Russian battleship Orel, and the cruiser Dmitri Donaskoi and Aurora, with two torpedo boat destroyers, now at Jibuti, a port in French Somaliland, have been ordered to return to Libau, a Russian port on the Baltic.

RUSSIANS FIRE AT A BRITISH STEAMER.

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STRUCK ABOVE THE WATER LINE IN SEVEN PLACES.

The British steamer Ching-Ping, 1885 tons, owned by the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ltd., on arriving at Wei-hai-wei complained to the British authorities that it had been fired at by Russian warships.

THE FIGHT OFF CHEMULPHO.

RUSSIAN REFUGEES.

LONDON, Feb. 23. The Russians who were rescued by the French cruiser Pascal after the fight between the Russian vessels the Varag and the Japanese squadron off Chemulpho are being conveyed to Saigon, the capital of French Indo-China. The 385 Russians who took refuge on H.M. cruiser Talbot are going to Ceylon. A United States officer has expressed the opinion that Japan was entitled to consider the rescued Russians prisoners of war, on the ground of the capture of the Japanese vessels in the open sea, and allowing the survivors to take refuge on foreign vessels. It has been stated, however, that Japan would allow the survivors to proceed to Shanghai on parole, on condition that Russia would not allow them northwards during the progress of the war.

R.M.S. MONGOLIA'S ADVENTURE.

STOPPED BY A RUSSIAN SQUADRON.

When the R.M.S. Mongolia, of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, encountered a Russian battleship and two torpedo boat destroyers off Lida, 400 miles north of Aden, she was travelling 17 knots per hour.

The Russian squadron having signalled the Mongolia to stop, Captain C. F. Preston, R.N.R., consulted Vice-Admiral Sir Gerard H. Noel, K.C.B., the Commander-in-Chief of the China station, who was a passenger by the mail steamer.

Following the advice of Sir Gerard Noel, Captain Preston stopped the Mongolia.

THE NEW JAPANESE CRUISERS.

REWARDS FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICERS.

LONDON, Feb. 24. The Mikado has decorated the British officers who commanded the Nishin and Katsuragi in the Argentine, and purchased from the Argentine, on their voyage from Italy. The Mikado has also presented the officers with magnificent gifts.

NEUTRALITY OF NIU-CHWANG.

AN ATTEMPTED ARRANGEMENT.

LONDON, Feb. 24. The consul at Niu-chwang at the head of the Gulf of Liao Tung attempting to arrange for the neutralisation of the port.

WEI-HAI-WEI NOT USED BY JAPANESE WARSHIPS.

LONDON, Feb. 23. Earl Percy, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated in the House of Commons last night that he had not been any Japanese warship at Wei-hai-wei since the month of August.

PATRIOTIC JAPANESE MILLIONAIRE.

LONDON, Feb. 23. M. Okura, a Japanese millionaire at Tokio, has offered to sell his unique collection of examples of Chinese and Japanese art for £200,000, and to devote the proceeds to the Japanese War Fund.

PATRIOTIC RUSSIANS.

HUGE CONTRIBUTION.

LONDON, Feb. 23. The Russians have contributed £125,000 sterling to the navy, and £150,000 to the funds of the Red Cross Society.

BIRLES FOR THE COMBATANTS.

LONDON, Feb. 23. The British and Foreign Bible Society has distributed 50,000 copies of the Scriptures to the Russian troops, and is also distributing copies among the Russian troops in Manchuria.

COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION.

The Russian force in North Korea is pushing southwards with great activity. A detachment of 4000 men has been reported from Sungho, on Taiping River, under 25 miles to the north of Ping Yang. This detachment has not advanced down the Great Manchurian river, but has moved from Sungho to the Ke Maing Sang range to Kiat Chien, 35 miles from Anju, in the Tai Tung valley, which here runs north and south, then along a minor road southwards to Sungho, 18 miles distant. We cannot see the advantage of moving down the main road. Keeping so far inland may mean an intention to move round the right flank of the Japanese, but it is too early to say.

Broadly speaking, the Russian cavalry may be divided into two corps, regular cavalry and Cossack cavalry. The latter is being gradually assimilated to the regular cavalry, and is a normal regular cavalry regiment consisting of six squadrons, giving a total strength of 36 officers, 5 officials, 920 non-commissioned officers and non-combatants, and 1014 horses. In the Far East there is only one regular regiment rather stronger than normal, the rest of the cavalry being Cossacks in each regiment there are two small groups of specially trained men, one for scouting, the other for pioneer work, such as blowing up railways and telegraphs. A trooper carries a curved sword about 20 inches long, and a leather scabbard lined with wood, so that the sword keeps its edge. His rifle, of the same pattern as the infantry, is slung across his back, and he carries a sword in his right hand. Forty rounds of ammunition are carried. The Russian trooper is mostly of the dragon type, that is, an infantryman with the sword, and a lance. This change was introduced in the early eighties, and in the opinion of cavalry officers has spoilt him as a horse soldier. More recently the dragon idea has been modified.

The Cossack 4th Squadron Regiment is nearly 1100 strong. The Cossack carries a sword and rifle similar in pattern to that of the cavalry, the front rank carrying in addition a lance. The Cossack is a very different type of man, as can be calculated there are in the Far East about 100,000 Cossacks. This includes a regiment brought from Russia last July and two more later. The total Japanese regular cavalry comprises 31 regiments, with an average strength of 150, a total of 4650. From the reserves several more regiments will be raised.

General Sakharoff, the new War Minister, provided the chief of the general staff, whose duty is to prepare plans of campaign. He has a high reputation in the Russian army as a strategist, and is well thought of by foreigners. Like all senior officers, he has active service in Central Asia and during the Turkish war.

Prince Khilkoff, Minister of Communications, is a practical railway man, and knows the Siberian system thoroughly. Therefore, his estimate of the capacity of the line must be respected. Of course, this implies there is no breakdown or congestion. Owing to the hostility of the people in Manchuria, the line and the railway are being worked by Russian troops, for mounted bandits, the so-called

CHINESE IN MANCHURIA.

READY TO WELCOME JAPAN.

FEVERISH PREPARATIONS AT PORT ARTHUR.

THURSDAY ISLAND, Wednesday. The latest news by the Tamsui, which arrived here this morning, gives few details regarding the Port Arthur engagements. The Hongkong "Telegraph" of February 11 gives the information that the Japanese fleet of 12 battleships which took part in the action against the Russian ships Varag and Kuretsa were the Asama, the Naniwa, the Aotaka, and the Chikuma.

The German calculation as to what the railway can carry does not quite tally with that of Prince Khilkoff. If we take the starting date as February 10, by April 4, or 53 days, we get 11 days over the time required by Prince Khilkoff, and at 3000 per day we get 33,000, or 15,000, according to the German. A little more must be known before it will be safe to state the actual numbers that can be transported.

A squadron now at Jibuti, at the Red Sea entrance, has received orders to return to Libau, the Baltic winter port of the Russian fleet. We may conclude that attempt will be made to wrest the command of the sea from Japan till the middle of the year, for by that time two, perhaps three, new battleships might be got ready. Even if this is done, it will be a long time before the chances of success will be slight, for Japan now has the purchased Argentine armoured cruisers added to her strength, giving 15 good and two inferior armoured units.

Nothing has been heard of the destination of the 100,000 Japanese troops who were embarking a few days ago, though at last we have a report that they are en route for the Gulf of Liao Tung. This gives a total so far of 70,000 about Seoul and to the north, a force which should be ample to check the Japanese invading Korea, even if 50,000 more are sent to the Yalu before the end of the month. It would be no surprise if 30,000 or more were thrown upon the Yalu estuary, to be in the rear of the Russians now moving south. 50,000 Russians are not sufficient to hold a base as extended as that of the Japanese, and the Japanese are not likely to be able to hold it for long.

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The "North China Daily News" reports that reliable sources state China has 11,000 well-armed fighting men at Amur who have been sent to the Yalu. In Manchuria there are 5000 good troops who can be relied upon. They are well armed. In Lower Manchuria there are 5000, or 10,000, in the whole of Manchuria there are 10,000, or 20,000, of whom more than half possess serviceable rifles and enough ammunition for a year. These are away from the sight of the Russians, who are only allowed to see a number of old muskets and a few rifles. The Chinese are not less than 10,000 Japanese of all ranks, and 10,000 Chinese.

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THE FASHODA REVELATIONS.

FROM THE "HERALD'S" LONDON CORRESPONDENTS.

ANGLO-FRENCH RELATIONS.

INTENTION TO IMPAIR.

LONDON, Feb. 23. The revelations by the "Figaro," of Paris, that assurances had been given during the Fashoda crisis of 1898 by Russia to France that that Power would co-operate with her in the event of a war with Great Britain, and was willing to prepare a diversion in the direction of India, were made without the knowledge of M. Delcasse, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and were intended to illustrate the loyalty of Russia to the alliance with France, and to damage the improved relations existing between Great Britain and France.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY.

ALL OBSTACLES REMOVED.

LONDON, Feb. 24. The United States Senate has ratified the treaty arranged between Panama and the United States for the building of the Panama Canal.

Later. The resolution for the ratification of the Panama treaty was carried in the United States Senate by 65 votes to 14. All obstacles to the construction of the canal have now been removed.

ITALIAN FRIENDSHIP FOR JAPAN.

After England there is no other country in Europe which feels such warm sympathy and cordial friendship for Japan as Italy (remarkable Rome correspondence). When the Italian Government was asked to join in connection with the Italian civilization about the century of Venetian influence and occupation had given to the Eastern coast of the Adriatic. The relations between Rome and Tokio are not less than 10,000 Japanese of all ranks, and 10,000 Chinese.

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